

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Sliding bearing comprising two opposite bearing surfaces which enclose a gap containing a lubricant film, said bearing surfaces being moveable with respect to each other in a generally parallel fashion, at least one of said surfaces being provided with at least one cavity, said cavity having a depth which is at least equal to larger than 10 times the lubricant film thickness, wherein at least one of the length and width dimension of the surface area of said cavity amounting to at least being larger than 100 μm , wherein the sum of the surface areas of all cavities of one and the same bearing surface amounts to at least 15% of the contact area of the bearing surfaces.

2. (Original) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the length and width dimensions amounts to at least 1000 μm .

3. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the length and width dimensions amounts to at least 5000 μm .

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein the cavity depth is at least equal to 20 times the lubricant film thickness.

6. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein the cavity depth is maximally 50 times the lubricant film thickness.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein the sum of the surface areas of all cavities of one and the same bearing surface amounts to at most 50% of the contact area of the bearing surfaces.

9. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces has at least 4 cavities.

10. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces has at most 8 cavities.

11. (Currently Amended) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein the gap between the bearing surfaces as seen in the direction of relative movement has an inlet and an outlet for the lubricant film, whereby a bearing length is defined between said inlet and outlet and said inlet and outlet being at a distance from any of the cavities at least one cavity.

12. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 11, wherein the center of a cavity or of a group of cavities is located at a distance of 0.6 to 0.8 times the bearing length from the inlet.

13. (Currently Amended) Bearing according to claim 11, wherein one and only one cavity is provided, said cavity being ~~positions~~ positioned approximately at equal distances from the inlet and the outlet.

14. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 11, wherein at least two cavities are provided, the distance between the formost cavity and the inlet being larger than the distance between the rearmost cavity and the outlet.

15. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of cavities is provided, said cavities are isolated from each other.

16. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 1, wherein the lubricant film thickness under running conditions is in the range of 0,01 µm to 10 µm.

17. (Currently Amended) Bearing according to claim [[2]] 5, wherein at least one of the length and width dimensions amounts to at least 5000 µm.

18. (Previously Presented) Bearing according to claim 12, wherein at least two cavities are provided, the distance between the formost cavity and the inlet being larger than the distance between the rearmost cavity and the outlet.